

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 /087 W

-----131820Z 106375 /43

O R 131741Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1136

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5509

MONROVIA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, AO

SUBJECT: SLOWDOWN OF

NIGERIAN INITIATIVE ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE PROBLEM

1. MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA PROVIDED FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT  
THIS MORNING TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND AMBASSADOR EASUM  
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REGARDING NIGERIAN INITIATIVE ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE PROBLEM.  
DELEGATION FROM ANGOLA AND ZAIRE MET UNDER NIGERIAN AUSPICES  
IN LAGOS MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNING (MAY 9 AND 10). ANGOLAN  
DELEGATION HEADED BY A CIVILIAN MEMBER OF ANGOLAN POLITBURO.  
ZAIRE DELEGATION HEADED BY NAVAL OFFICER. MUCH TO GARBA'S  
SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT, AND QUITE IN CONTRAST WITH THE  
IMPRESSION HE HAD RECEIVED THE LAST TIME HE VISITED LUANDA,

ANGOLAN DELEGATION BALKED ON BORDER PATROL ISSUE AND SAID THEY HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS IT. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT BORDER POLICE PRESENCE HAD BEEN PRECONDITION BY MOBUTU TO NEGOTIATING WITH NETO. NETO HAD SEEMED TO BE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT PATROL QUESTION WITHIN COTEXT OF GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.)

2. IN ENDEAVOR TO STRAIGHTEN OUT WHAT HE HOPED WAS ONLY A MISUNDERSTANDING, GARBA FLEW TUESDAY AFTERNOON (MAY 10) TO LUANDA WITH THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION. HE SAW NETO, WHO INITIALLY TOOK THE POSITION THAT A BORDER POLICE FORCE WAS OF NO RPT NO INTEREST TO HIM WHATSOEVER AND HE WAS UNWILLING TO ENGAGE IN ANY TALKS ABOUT IT. GARBA REMONSTRATED THAT THIS WAS A "NO WIN STANCE" FOR NETO TO TAKE AND THATSIT WAS IN ANGOLA'S BEST INTEREST TO TRY TO REACH AN ACCOMMODIATION ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES WITH MOBUTU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NETO AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS ANGER AT MOBUTU'S PERFIDY, CITING ALLEGEDLY BROKEN PROMISES BY MOBUTU OF RETURN OF CAPITALSASSETS BELONGING TO ANGOLA AND OF CRACKDOWN ON ARMED GUERRILLA CAMPS IN ZAIRE. GARBA REMINDED NETO OF MOBUTU'S CLAIM TO HAVE CLOSED DOWN THESE CAMPSMUND ASKED NETO WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET AT THE TRUTH THAN TO SET UP BORDER PATROL UNITS. NETO AGREED TO THINK IT OVER ONCE AGAIN AND SAID HE WOULD GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH GARBA THIS WEEKEND OR EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. GARBA SHOWED CONSIDERABLE DISMAY AT NETO'S ATTITUDE AND ONCE AGAIN OBSERVED HOW DIFFICULT HE WAS TO DEAL WITH. GARBA IS INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL OF CHANCES OF EARLY SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING NETO'S RECALCITRANCE. HE HAS NONETHELESS REPORTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MOBUTU ON THE RESULTS OF THIS LATEST VISIT TO LUANDA, AND HAS URGED MOBUTU TO DO NOTHING THAT WOULD CLOSE OFF THE ADMITTEDLY DIMINISHING CHANCES OF GETTING NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN THE IMMEDIATEFUTURE. AT BEST HE FORESEES POSSIBILITY OF DELAY GIVEN HIS OWN UPCOMING DEPARTURE EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR NEW YROK, BRAZIL AND PARIS (CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING). HE CONTINUES TO RESENT SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT ANGOLA/ ZAIRE NORMALIZATION, AND HAS HAD NO RESPONSE FROM HIS REQUEST TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR FOR SOVIET SNACTION OF THE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY MOSCOW'S VIEWS ON WHEPER THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN DISCUSSING THE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE WITH THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON.  
EASUM

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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